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THE THOMPSON COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR.
We are finding room as fast as possible for the highly interesting letters which are brought from Jake Thompson's residence, in Oxford, Miss. The following is all we can find room for in this number:

Albert H. Campbell to Jacob Thompson.

Washington, D. C., March 10, 1861.

My Dear Sir: Your letter of Dec. 20 last came duly to hand, and I desire to express my gratification that my course was not considered vicious.

I am satisfied in my own mind that the mutual enemies of yourself and our country are anxious of getting you at Washington, more for political disrepute than for any other reason. The signs of Mr. Lincoln's administration, and his policies, are now so well known, that for the gratification of present spite or spleen, I do not suppose anyone who your enemies entreated the court of peace and the Telegraph and printing journals would be inclined to pay any attention to you, and the enemies of the U. S. are of the same opinion. I have no objection to Fanny Squires, who, though dead in love with Nicholas Nicolay, and separated still, the wife of his exalted and much-christianized, yet when she discovered that he did not "keep," proposed to "pay" his ignorance and despise him."

My wife unites with me in kind remembrances and high regard for yourself and Mrs. Thompson, and both say it is for the tomb forever. I extend my thanks to the business of my desk "as usual" with very little office work, and, which there seems to be no important project, and resign. This Department is now called the Department of Indiana, and "political chickens" are plenty. The Administration seems to develop no policy yet which takes hold of either section. They have put out "feelers" and will not pass. My opinion is that the policy is to let the people decide the fact that the Union is dissolved, and we must act to bring this upon the ear of the nation too shortly. They also appear to be awaiting the action of Virginia, and Virginia awaiting their action. They are in a dilemma, evidently, between Secession and Morrill Tariff. I have a letter from Col. Sayles of H. L. from Montgomery. He says your people are terribly in earnest and the sooner Mr. Lincoln's administration knows it the better. Please excuse the random character of this acknowledgment of your letter, and believe me,

Sincerely your friend,
ALBERT H. CAMPBELL.
Hon. J. THOMPSON, Oxford, Miss.

Gen. Foster's Operations.
From the New York Tribune, December 18.

On the morning of the 11th inst., Maj. Gen. Foster left Newark with an adequate and well-appointed force, and proceeded toward Goldsboro.

An considerable skirmish occurred at Trenton at noon on Friday, in which Capt. Mitchell, Co. A, 2d New York, charged, sowed, and rode eight yards, and fell at the head of two companies of infantry. The rebels reached Southwark Creek, the bridges across which had been destroyed, at 11 o'clock, A.M. The Ninth New Jersey made a dash through the woods, crossing the creek at a point above, and seized the rebel battery stationed in the middle of the road on the opposite side of the stream, Capt. Chapman, Co. A, first reaching the guns. At this instant, while advancing, the second strong, made another dash about four miles this side of Kimberlin. The Ninth New Jersey and Morrison's battery were sent up to feel their position, and engaged them briefly for some thirty minutes, when the enemy fled back again. Our forces then bivouacked for the night.

Sunday morning, the 14th, the main army crossed the creek about 6 o'clock, and advanced the Ninth New Jersey and Morrison's battery—moved on about a mile, when a general engagement with the enemy, 7,000 strong, commenced, continuing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., when the enemy, who were closely pressed, retreated over the long bridge across the Neuse river, and our army victoriously entered Kimberlin. Our loss in killed, wounded, and missing will not exceed 120. Capt. T. T. Tandy, 1st Regt. N. Y. V., and Capt. W. H. Wilson, 1st Regt. N. Y. V., fell at the head of his regiment, while leading a successful charge. Capt. Wells and Lieut. Perkins, of the Ninth Connecticut, were also killed. Loss of the enemy not definitely ascertained. We took up ward of 500 prisoners, among whom were two colonels and several other officers, and eleven pieces of artillery, besides many captures. Col. Hartshorne, Ninth New Jersey, and Col. Hunt, Ninety-second New York, were to be recommended for promotion to brigadier-generalship for distinguished gallantry.

The strategy of Gen. Foster in the conduct of the expedition was most masterly and thoroughly successful. Our troops fought well, without exception. They were greatly elated, and clamorous to be led on Raleigh.

The rebels, in order to delay the advance of our forces, by the adjacency and skill of H. E. Wilson, the civil engineer of the department, with his well-trained corps of mechanics, soon overcame these obstacles and kept the army in motion. The situation of the ground upon which the battle was fought was such as to render it very difficult to bring any considerable body of troops to action. The rebels having the opportunity to select the battle-ground, had decidedly the advantage in position.

The Ninth Connecticut sustained a heavier loss than any other regiment engaged, and deserve especial notice for the interest of the Government to do so. It will be considered unusual for a regiment to sustain such a loss, but the rebels compensated with proper guarantees that the bidder will execute a satisfactory contest.

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T. E. L.

12-13-14

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